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ABSTRACT

Noting that families who are involved in their children's education make a difference in their child's performance, this two-page information sheet encourages families to get involved by listing the benefits of family involvement on one side and the ways adult family members can help in the school on the other. As a result of family participation: (1) parents improve communication with their children; (2) children attain higher grades and test scores; (3) children have better school attendance; (4) children are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college; (5) parents gain a sense of accomplishment; (6) parents gain a stronger social network with other parents and the community; (7) parents participate in the life of the school, experiencing first-hand the teaching and learning that occurs; (8) everyone's learning is strengthened as parents share their values and high expectations for their children; (9) children learn good study habits by reading with parents, following a daily homework routine, watching television wisely, and being involved in enrichment activities; and (10) parents may decide to continue their own education. Ways families can be involved in school include: (1) chaperoning field trips or social events; (2) volunteering for special projects; (3) participating in community activities or fundraising through bake sales or book fairs; (4) tutoring other children; (5) making phone calls and contacting other families about special events; (6) serving as a class resource by sharing knowledge of other countries, ethnic groups, or jobs; (7) helping as an office aide or a teacher's aide; and (8) providing leadership by participating in the parent-teacher association, school board, and other meetings and activities. (LPP)

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Learning Partners

Families Get Involved!

Families who get involved in their children's education do make a difference and everyone benefits from this partnership—children, families, and schools. Students achieve, schools improve, and families feel good because they know they've increased their children's chances for success.

When you involve your family

- Your communication with your children will improve as you talk to them about school.
- Your children may achieve higher grades and better test scores.
- Your children will have better school attendance.
- Your children will be more likely to graduate from high school and go on to college.
- You can gain a sense of accomplishment.
- You can gain a stronger social network with other parents and the community.
- You will participate in the life of the school, experiencing teaching and learning first hand.
- Everyone's learning will be strengthened as you share your values and high expectations for your children.
- Your children will learn good study habits by reading with you, following a daily homework routine, using television wisely, and being involved in other enrichment activities.
- You may desire to continue your own education.

Your children's school wants your support and encourages you to be a partner in your children's education. So, watch for notices about open houses, Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and school board meetings, mailings and newsletters, school handbooks, parent-school compacts, parent-teacher conferences, report cards, home visits, and phone calls. Also, do not hesitate to call the school with questions or suggestions. Communicating with each other will help connect your family and the school.

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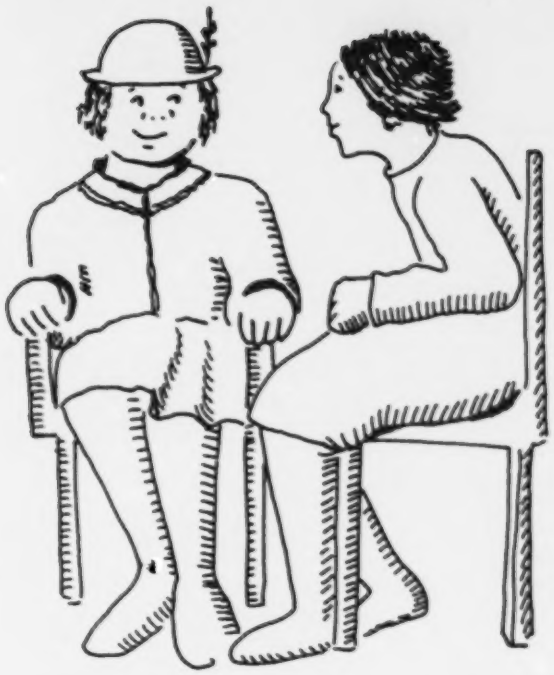
Schools involve families in many other ways.



You can help by

- Going on field trips or chaperoning social events.
- Volunteering for special projects such as counting receipts for computer donation programs, or cutting out name tags and materials for bulletin boards.
- Participating in community activities or fundraising through bake sales, book fairs, and sporting events to raise money for school equipment, and social events.
- Tutoring other children.
- Making phone calls and contacting other families about special events, activities, or concerns.

- Serving as a class resource by sharing your knowledge of other countries, languages, ethnic groups, jobs, or other unique experiences and special skills.
- Helping as an office or teacher's aide by answering phones, photocopying, stuffing envelopes, correcting papers, or helping children with special assignments such as art projects.
- Providing leadership by participating in the PTA, school board and other meetings and activities.

Resources: Information was taken from ***Reaching All Families: Creating Family-Friendly Schools*** and ***Strong Families, Strong Schools***. For more information on family involvement initiatives and related publications, contact 1-800-USA-LEARN, or the National Library of Education at 1-800-424-1616, or visit us via the Internet at http://www.ed.gov.

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